

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A solid detergent composition comprising:
 - (a) an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal, wherein the cleaning agent comprises about 0.1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of a surfactant based on the weight of the solid detergent composition, and about 1 wt.% to about 50 wt.% phosphonate, amino-carboxylate, or mixture thereof based on the weight of the detergent composition;
 - (b) an effective amount of a binding agent dispersed throughout the solid detergent composition to provide the detergent composition as a solid at a temperature up to about 100° F within about 20 minutes of extrusion, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:
 - (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition;
 - (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition; and
 - (iii) a sufficient amount of water to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate to provide solidification;wherein the solid detergent composition is provided as an extruded solid in the form of a pellet or a block as a result of a step of hardening, and wherein the hardening comprises a result of solidification by the binding agent.
2. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.
3. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said alkali metal bicarbonate is provided as a reaction product of alkali metal carbonate and acid.

4. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a builder comprising sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium nitrilotriacetate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one of a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, or a mixture thereof.

7-13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for solidifying a detergent composition, the method comprising:

(a) mixing an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal and an effective amount of a binding agent to solidify the detergent composition to form a mixture, the cleaning agent comprising about 0.1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of a surfactant based on the weight of the solid detergent composition, and about 1 wt.% to about 50 wt.% phosphonate, amino-carboxylate, or mixture thereof based on the weight of the detergent composition, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:

(i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition;

(ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate, based on the weight of the detergent composition; and

(iii) a sufficient amount of water to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate to provide solidification;

(b) extruding the mixture; and

(c) hardening the mixture to form the solid detergent composition in the form of a pellet of a block, wherein the hardening comprises a result of solidification by the binding agent, and wherein the solid detergent composition and has having a melting temperature greater than 100° F within about 20 minutes of extruding the mixture.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) generating alkali metal bicarbonate by reacting alkali metal carbonate with acid.
16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein the acid comprises at least one of citric acid, sulfamic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, and mixtures thereof.
17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.
- 18-19. (CANCELED)
20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) packaging the mixture of cleaning agent and binding agent.
- 21-27 (CANCELED)
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid composition is provided as a result of extrusion into a packaging.

Support for the Amendment:

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of canceled claims 10 and 11, and independent claim 14 is amended to include the features of canceled claims 22 and 23. The characterization of the solid detergent composition as being provided in the form of a pellet or a block is further supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 3-21.

Independent claims 1 and 14 are additionally amended to more clearly characterize the "hardening" as a result of solidification by the binding agent. This is supported by the specification at, for example, page 20, lines 1-17.

The amendment cancels claims 10, 11, 13, 22, 23, 26, and 27.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-4, 6, 13-20, and 28 are active in this application.